



## **Compaq Computer Corporation**

---

EPA ID Number: PRD000706333

### **Other (Former) Names of Site**

Hewlett-Packard Corporation (current owner of Compaq Computer Corp.), Digital Equipment Corporation

### **Site Description**

The Compaq Computer Corporation is located along an unpaved road in the Municipio (town) de Sabana Grande, in the southwest corner of the Commonwealth. The character of the surrounding land is generally rural, with the nearest residence located about ½-mile from the site. The site is situated on top of a steep-sided hill which is part of a narrow, northeasterly trending ridge. The site contains the remains of an irregularly-shaped impoundment with a total area of 0.55 acre. The impoundment consists of four earthen-walled lagoons. A closed municipal landfill, operated by the Municipality of Sabana Grande, is located adjacent to the southeast edge of the site. Construction of the lagoons began in 1977. They were three to 12 feet deep, but have now been filled and the surface graded flat.

The lagoons were used solely for the disposal of metal hydroxide sludge, generated by Digital Equipment Corporation's San German facility as part of its electroplating operations.

In 1984, a major portion of this hydroxide sludge was sold to a metals reclamation company. No waste material has been placed in the lagoons since 1984.

The Compaq Computer Corporation acquired Digital Equipment Corporation in June 1998 and was subsequently acquired by the Hewlett-Packard Corporation.

### **Site Responsibility**

Cleanup at this site has been addressed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

### **Threats and Contaminants**

The major potential threat has been the result of the unintended release of

contaminants from the hazardous waste disposed in the lagoons into the soil and fractured rock beneath the facility and into the contained ground water. These contaminants consist of metals associated with the metal hydroxides. These metals are copper, chromium, nickel, and lead. Arsenic and mercury have also been identified. The ground water occurs at a depth of about 200 feet and is not used for drinking in this area.

## **CLEANUP APPROACH**

### **Cleanup Status/Corrective Action**

Site cleanup and corrective action was addressed by Compaq Computer Corporation (formerly by the Digital Equipment Corporation), under EPA oversight, through a series of corrective action activities. These activities did not distinguish between Interim Corrective Measures and those affecting the entire site. The bulk of the metal hydroxide hazardous waste was removed from the lagoons, the contaminated soil removed, and the underlying bedrock surface cleaned to remove residual traces of the metal hydroxide. The lagoons were then filled with clean fill material and graded flat. Lysimeters, which measure and sample soil moisture, were installed to determine whether metal contaminants from the hydroxide had leached into the soil and perhaps the underlying ground water. In addition, a seep (intermittent spring) and nearby ground-water wells were monitored.



### **Response Action Status**

The soil moisture monitoring excluded the reasonable possibility that releases of hazardous constituents from the former lagoons remain in fractures within the underlying bedrock that releases of these constituents have a reasonable chance of migrating to the underlying groundwater. Additional field data showed no release of contaminants to moisture within the soil. These data were used to determine that the site was suitable to be closed and that no further monitoring was required.

### **Cleanup Progress**

The soil moisture monitoring determined that there was no release of hazardous constituents above acceptable levels, and that the already accomplished cleanup activities described above were considered acceptable.

### **Permit Status**

The site has never had an interim permit and there is no anticipated application for a permit. The site was determined to be closed on July 3, 2003. Wastes remaining at the site are in concentrations that would make the site suitable for industrial use. An institutional control will be maintained for the site, in the form of a deed of a restrictive

covenant with the City of Sabana Grande, indicating to future site owners that hazardous waste was formally managed on the site, indicating the presence of residual contamination, and indicating the limitation of future site use.

### **Site Repository**

Copies of supporting technical documents and correspondence cited in the site fact sheet are available for public review at the following location:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
RCRA Records Center  
290 Broadway, 15th Floor, Room 1538  
New York, New York 10007-1866  
Telephone: (212) 637-3043

and

Caribbean Environmental Protection Division  
Centro Europa Building, Suite 417  
492 Ponce De Leon Avenue  
Santurce, Puerto Rico, 00907-4127  
Telephone: (787) 729-6951

and

Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board  
National Plaza Building 431 Ponce De Leon Avenue  
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00917  
Telephone: (787) 767- 8181

